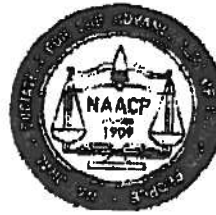


April 23, 2012



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NAACP

The Honorable Peter J. Lund
Michigan House of Representatives
Chair, Redistricting and Elections Committee
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

**RE: HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING AND ELECTIONS -
SB 754, SB 751, and SB 803**

Dear Chairman Lund and House Committee Members:

The xxxxxx Branch NAACP strongly opposes SB 754, SB 751, and SB 803.

The NAACP has a long history of leading the charge to ensure unfettered access to the ballot box, the integrity of elections, and preserving the public's confidence in the outcome of elections by ensuring all eligible voters are able to cast a ballot that gets counted on Election Day. We are in strong opposition to the suite of proposed election law changes before you – SB 754, 751, and 803 – as in application these bills will result in mass suppression of otherwise voting-eligible Michigan citizens including seniors, young voters, people of color, homeless or temporarily displaced voters, members of the disability community, and low-income voters who – while voting eligible – may be unable to register and/or vote under the proposed changes.

We believe in strengthening and maintaining integrity of elections, however pushing otherwise eligible voters into the margins of democracy is not the way.

Michigan voters and elections would be better served if the state focused on devising systems that move all eligible voters onto the rolls AND which facilitate their ability to cast a ballot that gets counted on Election Day, as according to the U.S. Census Bureau in the last two Presidential elections only 68 percent of eligible voting people cast a ballot.

Them Muskegon Branch NAACP strongly recommends that you do not pass the aforementioned bills and allow people in Michigan to continue to vote without intimidation and limitation. We encourage you to find better ways to improve voter participation and provide access to the electoral process, such as early voting, same-day voter registration and allowing college students to vote where they attend school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl McKinney".

Cheryl McKinney
Member

MuskegonBranch NAACP
P.O. Box 0035
Muskegon, MI 49443